

Joel 1 – The Locust Army
Sunday Evening – 9 December 2018
Sermon Outline

Introduction

OT Prophets are Covenant Attorneys / Lawyers

- Jonah and Obadiah were addressing _____ nations
- Joel is sent to the nation of _____ (God's chosen people)
 - Prosecuting the case against them for violating the covenant made at Mount _____
 - Blessings for obedience; and _____ for disobedience
 - “All this we will do”

The name “Joel” means = Yahweh is _____

Call to Hear ~

Background – Hear / *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

Addressed to the covenant community

- HEAR – you elders (1:2)
- GIVE EAR - _____ inhabitants of the land

Question: Consider / Ponder / Understanding / Engage

- *Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers?* (2b)

Sacred Duty – tell you _____ . . . and let their children tell their _____ . . . and their _____ to another generation

- Parents and Church to teach the whole counsel of God
 - Judgment and _____ (Law / Gospel)

The Locust / Army / Famine Invasion – The Devastation Described

- The covenant curses are upon us – we have triggered the covenant sanctions
- Material and Spiritual world / realities devastated
- Deuteronomy 28:45-51

Call to Repent ~

What is the right response to the violation of God's Law / Word?

- REPENT – turn _____ sin; and turn _____ the LORD (faith)

Call to the whole covenant community to turn from their wicked ways

- Put on sackcloth and lament – O _____ (1:13)
- Wail, O _____ of the altar – pass the night in sackcloth
- Gather the elders and _____ the inhabitants of the land (1:14)

For what purpose – why shall we gather – and to whom can we turn from help?

- *Gather in the house of the LORD your God and cry out the _____* (1:14)

Alas, for the day of the _____ is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes (1:15)

- _____ is from the LORD
- _____ is from the LORD

God holds his own covenant people and community responsible and accountable for their sins!

Not the end of the story for Joel – Scriptures – us

Call to Come ~

How does the LORD respond to those who repent and believe? (Recall Jonah and the Ninevites)

Rough / Unjust / Arbitrary? Why them / you / us – why Lisbon, New Orleans, California, Indonesia etc.?

- Jesus – prophet of judgment and salvation
- Luke 13:2-5
- Jesus is saying that we _____ deserve to perish . . . but says more and does more to ensure that we do not get what we deserve
- The wretchedness of sin is the backdrop of the beauty of the _____
- Jesus: _____ *and believe and you will be saved*
- *Come to me all you who are weary, and I will give you rest*

Questions for Family Worship / Follow-Up ~

What did pastor mean when he said that OT prophets are like covenant lawyers / attorneys?

Why were the Israelites punished by God?

Why do we find it so hard to believe that we deserve God's wrath / punishment?

What is God doing to save us from the wrath we deserve?

How should we live, worship, work, and love in light of God's Amazing Grace?